

F. W. Woolworth Company  
(National Sales) (Kinney's Shoes)  
406-410 Seventh Street, NW  
Washington  
District of Columbia

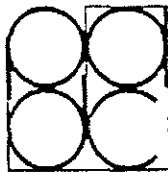
HABS No. DC-583

HABS  
DC,  
WASH,  
297-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20013-7127



PENNSYLVANIA  
AVENUE  
DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION  
425 13TH STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

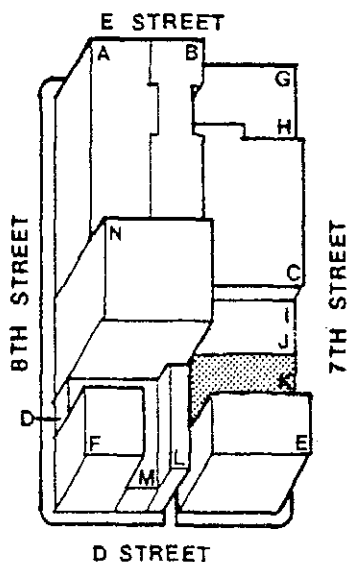
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

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F. W. Woolworth Company  
(National Sales/Kinney Shoes)  
406-410 SEVENTH STREET, N.W.  
LOT 816



This documentation was produced for mitigation purposes by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. Additional documentation exists for Square 431, within which this structure exists. For photographs, historical, and descriptive data on Square 431, see HABS No. DC-574.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

A three-story structure with a white brick and terra-cotta facade and a flat roof stands at 406-410 Seventh Street, completely occupying Lot 816. It is flanked to the north by a similarly scaled retail establishment and to the south by the six-story Jenifer Building.

Originally built for the F. W. Woolworth Co., the ground level of this building is presently subdivided to house two separate concerns: the northern sector is leased by Kinney Shoes. The southern sector and all the upper levels are occupied by a consortium of six private art galleries.

The white glazed brick facade above the storefront level is defined by a symmetrical arrangement of five window bays topped by a decorative terra-cotta attic level and cornice. The roof is flat.

Due to numerous alterations, very few of the building's original interior finishes are extant. The interior of Kinney's retail space is basically open with modern finishes. Three columns stand in the center, offset slightly to the south of the entrance and bearing no relation to the exterior piers. A staircase on the north wall leads to the cellar.

The remainder of the building has been adapted to accommodate one gallery on the first floor, two on the second and three on the third. A wide straight-run staircase is situated against the south wall. It incorporates an old, perhaps original, ballustrade carrying an unpainted wood handrail and newel-post, with a balustrade painted white to match the interior walls. Columns appear on each floor, their grid contrasting the irregular spatial configurations of the galleries. The metal columns have cylindrical metal covers, and take two forms: some carry Corinthian capitals, others are decorated with molded bands which wrap around the shaft. These columns support steel I-beams, reinforcing an earlier wood frame structure. Radiators are located throughout the building, remnants of an earlier steam heat system.

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The site at 406-410 Seventh Street was occupied by Woolworth's for several years prior to this building's construction in 1917 by James L. Parsons, Jr. (Building Permit #3595, 2/7/1917). Woolworth's continued to occupy the site until 1954. Since then, the ground level has been occupied as two units by a variety of tenants.

Although the dissimilar modern storefronts mar the integrity of the structure's rigid symmetry and elaborate trim, the building nonetheless stands as a handsome example of early Twentieth Century commercial construction. The use of glazed terra-cotta ornamentation is similar to the facing material found on facades in the area, e.g. S. S. Kresge's, Lansburgh's and the Busch Building. In height, scale and massing the building is harmonious with the surrounding structures and with the overall character of Seventh Street.

### SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

Facade: The building's ground floor facade has been subdivided into two unrelated storefronts which express the separation of the building's interior. On the north side, the Kinney storefront features plate glass windows and a fascia clad in white ceramic tile. Large letters outlined in neon provide the only decoration.

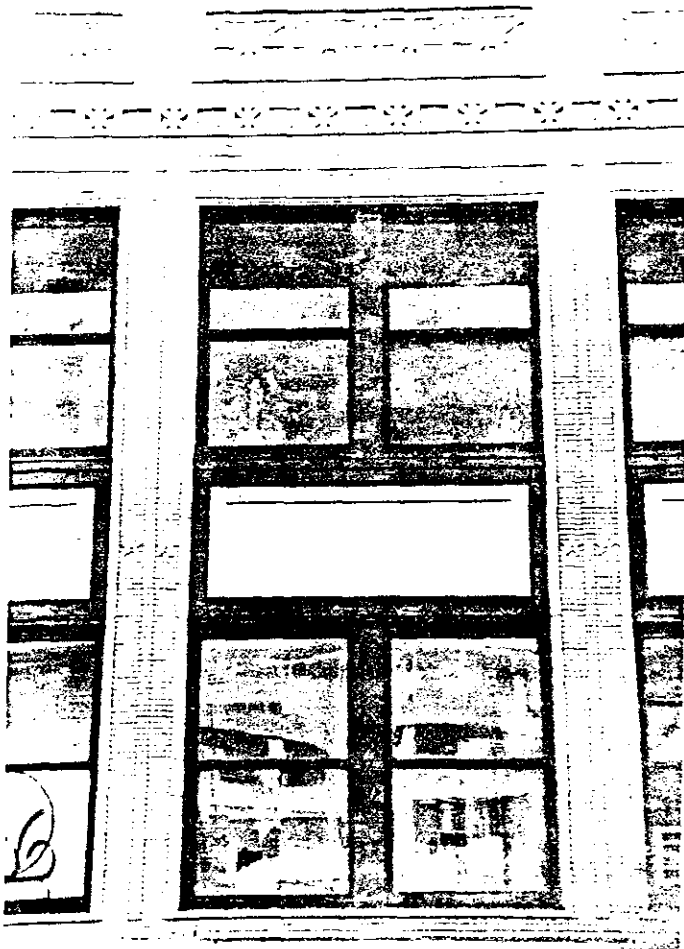
The gallery entrance occupies the two southern bays. A slightly recessed pair of glass doors is offset to the south of a row of plate glass show windows trimmed in black. The show window plinth and the wall to the south of the doorway are clad in white ceramic tile, providing a Hi-Tech appearance. A metal fascia painted black tops the storefront.

On the upper floors, brick piers divide the facade into three wide bays of windows at the center, with a narrower bay on each side. Each bay contains two windows per floor. In addition, the wide end piers are faced with brick in a herringbone pattern. An escutcheon ornament embellishes the tops of these two piers. Wooden spandrel panels painted white with red-enameled frames lie below each pair of windows on the third floor. This red trim is repeated in the window frames and mullions. All window units are one-over-one double-hung wooden sash.

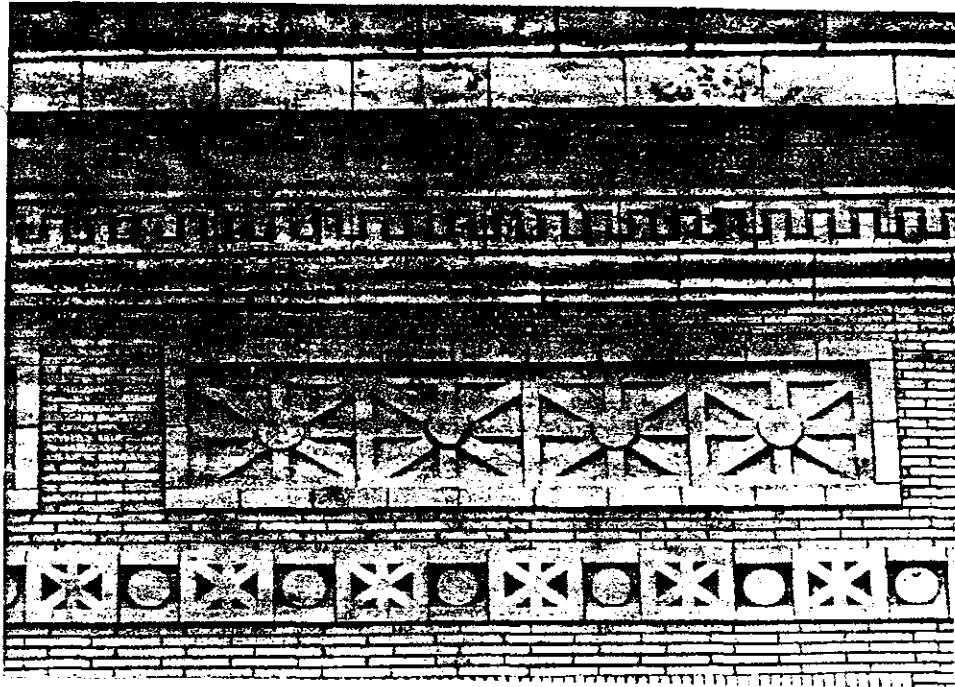
A terra-cotta stringcourse between the third floor and the attic spans the width of the facade. The attic level is embellished with glazed terra-cotta ornamentation. Above the stringcourse, panels correspond to the bay widths below. These are filled with terra-cotta tiles in an asterisk motif. At the ends, above the two piers, are small rectangular brick panels. The terra-cotta cornice consists of a dentil course topped by a fascia and crown molding.



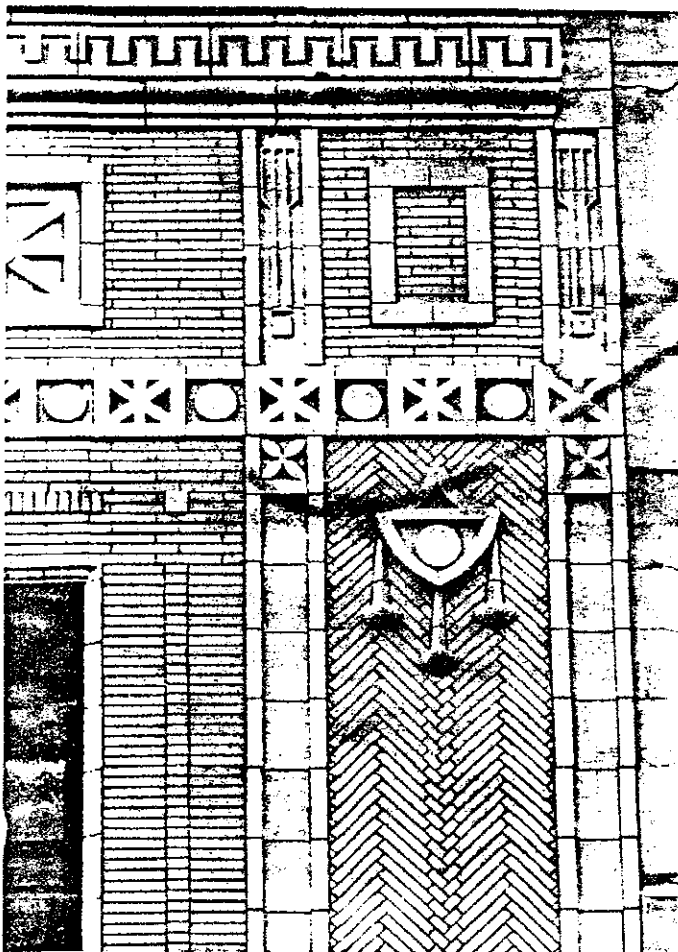
Oblique View of the Seventh Street Facade



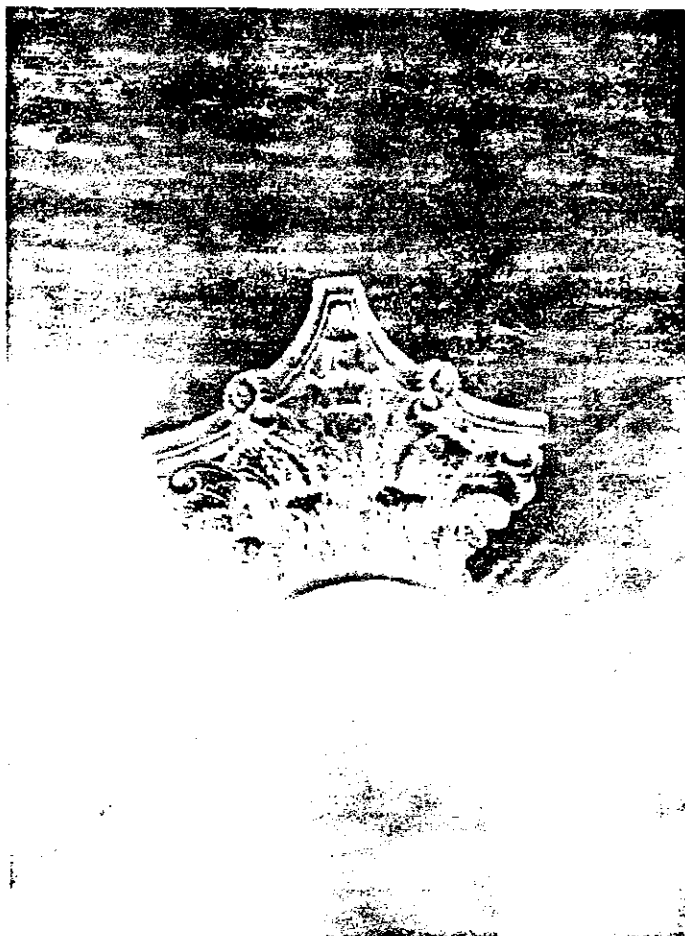
Detail of Window Bay



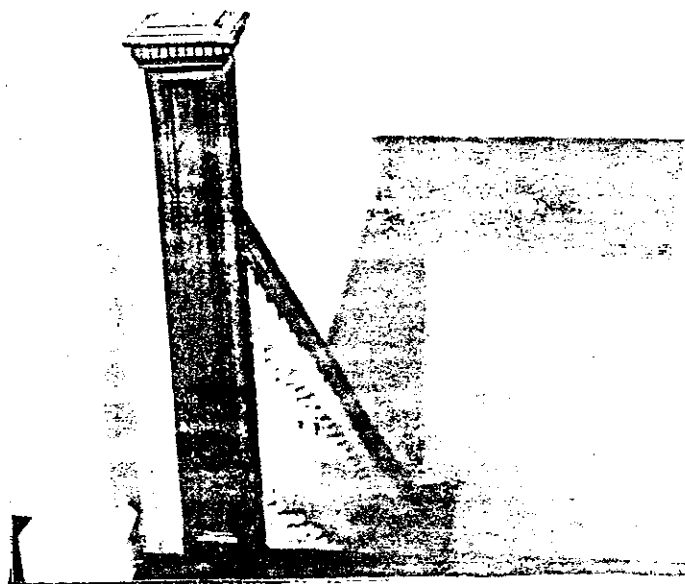
DETAIL OF FRIEZE ABOVE THIRD FLOOR



DETAIL OF ORNAMENTATION AT NORTH END OF  
FRIEZE



INTERIOR: DETAIL OF CAPITAL AND COLUMN  
ON SECOND FLOOR



INTERIOR: DETAIL OF NEWEL POST AND  
BANISTER ON SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS

Lot 18 (Sublot 816)  
408-410 7th Street

An "L-shaped" lot, 408-410 7th Street became no. 816 according to Baists' 1919 Plat Map. The lot expanded in area when it was joined by Lots 1 and 2 in 1917, becoming Woolworth's department store.

1819.....R.M. Oesha owned Lot 18.

1824.....The lot was assessed at \$924.00.

1829/33...Now owned by G.C. Grammer, the land value was \$1,732.00.

1844.....An assessment was indicated of \$1,540.00.

1859.....The lot value was \$8,662.00, in the names of Joseph Gales and W.W. Seaton.

1870.....The value of improvements was \$16,000.00.

1872/73...Henry S. Davis and M.W. Galt were assessed \$23,100.00 for the lot.

1878/79...The lot assessment decreased to \$21,175.00.

1883/84...The value of the lot was again \$23,100.00.

1892.....Lot 18 was equally divided into north and south areas (Hopkins Plat Map).

1893/94...Matthew Galt, the sole owner, was assessed \$27,913.00 (lot), and \$9,000.00 (improvements).

1899/  
1900.....Charles E. Galt was assessed \$29,950.00 (land) and \$8,000.00 (improvements).

1901  
to  
1954.....F.W. Woolworth Co., a five and dime store, was listed at this address.



1917.....Building Permit #3595, 2/17/1917, indicated the construction of a three-story brick store, 70' x 100' x 47'. Builder: James L. Parsons, Jr.  
Cost: \$61,950.00.

The Building Permit (#4068) described the construction of a vault and five show windows projecting 5" x 8" beyond the building line. Depth of vault: 68' in west side. (3/16/1917)

Building Permit #3563 granted the installation of one electric freight elevator. Cost: \$1,800.00.

1919.....Removed original party walls of Lots 1 and 2 remaining, to become one lot 51' x 100'. Indicated as 816, 406-412 7th Street (Baist Plat Map).

Permission was granted to repair the kitchen, install partitions, construct terra-cotta floor. To install new window 6' x 3' in rear wall and move rear stairs to south wall. Builder: James L. Parsons.  
(3/11/1919)

1922

to

1948.....An association of dentists was located at 406-410 7th Street.

1948.....A January 16 Building Permit (#258,297) to steam clean outside masonry walls.

1967.....A general merchandiser, Paul Gussin Co. was located at 406 7th Street.

1981.....The structure's ground level is subdivided, housing two separate concerns: The northern sector is leased by Kinney Shoes. The southern sector and all the upper levels is occupied by six private art galleries.

## SOURCES

Baist Real Estate Atlas

Bastert and Enthoffer Plat Maps

Boyd's City Directories

District of Columbia Building Permits

District of Columbia General Assessment Records

District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds

District of Columbia Surveyor's Office Records

District of Columbia Tax Records

Hopkins Real Estate Atlas

Polk's City Directories

Property Map for Downtown Urban Renewal Area for District of Columbia Redevelopment  
Land Agency

Sanborn Insurance Map